

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 12728 021137Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 HA-05 L-03 IO-14 /045 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4010

WHITE HOUSE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS BANGKOK 12728

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: THAI MEDIA REACTION -- MONDALE VISIT

ICA FOR PGM/RC, EA, VOA/PF, PGM/P, PGM/RM/RM
STATE FOR CROGERS;

1. BANGKOK MEDIA ARE GIVING PROMINENT PLAY TO THE ASIAN TRIP OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE. WIRE SERVICE STORIES AND THE POST'S PRESS RELEASE ON THE MONDALE VISIT TO BANGKOK ARE CARRIED BY MAJOR BANGKOK DAILY PAPERS MAY 2.

2. COLUMNIST PHAISAN PROMNOI, WRITING MAY 2 IN THE THAI-LANGUAGE MATICHON, SAYS THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEM "IS THE THORN IN THE THUMB OF THAILAND" AND WILL BE BROUGHT UP BY PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN WHEN HE MEETS WITH MONDALE.

3. THAILAND HAS ACCEPTED THE REFUGEES "TO SAVE THE FACE OF ITS BIG FRIEND, THE UNITED STATES, WHICH WAS THE CREATOR OF THAT PROBLEM," PHAISAN CONTINUES. NOTING THAT RTG PERMITTED THAI TERRITORY TO BE USED AS AN AMERICAN BOMBER BASE DURING THE INDOCHINA WAR, COLUMNIST SAYS, "WHAT THAILAND DID IN THE PAST NOW IMPACTS ON ITS PRESENT EXISTENCE."

4. "A SURE THING IS THAT THE UNITED STATES WANTS THE REFUGEES

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TO REMAIN IN THAILAND, WHILE THE LATTER WANTS THEM PUSHED OUT," PHAISAN SAYS.

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